



**STATE OF THE DISTRICT**  
**YEAR-END, 2019**

Dear Lakewood Families:

I trust this communication finds you enjoying the start of summer break for Lakewood Public Schools. I wanted to reach out and update our families with a year-end update. We have so much to be thankful for here at Lakewood Public Schools!

This past June, the board closed out fiscal year 2018-2019 by adopting a final budget revision with \$20,737,999 in revenues and \$17,848,335 in expenses. The board approved the preliminary fiscal year 2019-2020 budget with \$20,760,878 in projected revenues and \$17,760,569 in projected expenses. The Lakewood Board remains committed to a **conservative budget philosophy** and maintaining a balanced budget. As a reminder, fund balance is a snapshot of equity—or assets over liabilities—at a particular time. Fund equity is not all cash – in fact, the majority of fund equity is equipment, supplies, real-estate, buses, etc. The current budget revision can be viewed [at this link](#).

The board and Lakewood Education Association reached a **two-year contract** deal in early June. This is the first time in many years a multi-year contract has been settled. We're proud of our teachers (and support staff) and proud of the steps taken to improve wages in our district. (The Lakewood Educational Support Personnel Association is currently in the middle of multi-year contract.) All bargaining agreements can be viewed [at this link](#).

Our district was **awarded \$127,000 to make safety upgrades** throughout the district. These monies are part of a \$25 million grant the state legislature approved to be disbursed by the Michigan State Police. The district will add **safety film** to entryway glass, office glass, and various other glass areas. Additionally, the district will be utilizing these funds to **add safety bollards** at all entryway doors throughout the district. These items are part of a comprehensive safety plan that included past work of adding **buzzer entry systems, HD cameras on all our buses**, the addition of **school resource officer** presence, and **K-9 dog management**. Upcoming work includes upgrades to our **surveillance camera systems** at all buildings and phase two **renovations to our entryways/foyers** at all buildings.

**Lakewood Elementary School's parking lot** will receive a renovation the summer of 2020. These renovations will improve traffic flow and safety for our students, parents, and bus drivers. The tentative plan can be [viewed here](#). The board approved the proceeds from the sale of Sunfield and pending sale of Clarksville schools to be applied to pay for these renovations. Phase 1 work is slated to start in early June, 2020 and includes expanding bus parking area, widening the entryway off Washington and the exit to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, and reconfiguring curbs and sidewalks in these areas. Phase 1 will cost approximately \$590,000\*; of this amount, \$430,000\* will come from restricted funds (non-general funds) from the property sale proceeds. The remainder of the cost will be paid for out of general fund, roughly \$90,000\*. We are excited to have this renovation completed! (\*Cost projections are tentative.)

The board unanimously approved a competitive energy contract with Schneider Electric. The contract will **save the district and taxpayers an estimated \$2 million dollars** in energy costs over the next 15 years! It will also take our district to a much-needed “green” operational strategy. This cost-avoidance plan will allow the district to leverage these savings on the following projects at **no new, added cost to the district's general fund**:



**LAKEWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Randall Fleenor

**ASSISTANT  
SUPERINTENDENT**  
Jay Larner

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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- upgrade all interior and exterior lighting to high efficiency LED units (classrooms, offices, parking lots, Unity Stadium, etc.);
- complete replacement of the district's ageing phone system—20 years old;
- replacement of surveillance equipment at all buildings;
- addition of middle school air conditioning unit for office areas;
- addition of high efficiency hand dryers in all bathrooms;
- replacement of middle school chiller; and,
- upgrades to all automations systems in each building.

This plan allows the district to take the savings in already-budgeted energy costs, and pay for capital projects that we would have to eventually pay for instead of coming to the taxpayers for the revenue. I'd like to commend the board for taking this proactive, cost-avoidance, and fiscally responsible step!

It is hard to believe that it has already been 3 years since the board updated its strategic plan. In this time, much has been accomplished to make us proud. This coming year, the board will launch **a strategic plan review process** to update its current plan to guide the district beyond 2025.

The plan focuses on **6 key areas of growth**: 1) academic growth, 2) fiscal stewardship, 3) facilities and operations, 4) personnel, 5) communications, and 6) Board governance. The district strategic plan can be viewed in its entirety [at this link](#). For the latest on our goal attainment, see our strategic plan **goal tracker** at [this link](#).

Wishing you a restful summer break,

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Fleenor", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Randall J. Fleenor  
Superintendent